

IT AMAZES ME

it amazes me that more planes do not fall from the sky
it amazes me that more bridges do not collapse and fall
into the waters they span
it amazes me that buildings do not crumble more often
it amazes me that the shoes we wear do not disintegrate
as we walk in them
it amazes me that the arms do not drop off of our shirts
it amazes me that the legs do not drop off of our pants
it amazes me that the food we eat does not poison us
with every morsel we place in our mouths
it amazes me that our bodies even know what to do with
the food we give them
it amazes me that humans discovered fire and its many
uses
it amazes me that humans learned to paint and write and
speak to one another
it amazes me that we learned to make things grow in the
ground
it amazes me that we learned to hunt animals to eat and
to help keep us warm
it amazes me that we ever went to war and found such a
grand sensation in it
it amazes me that the poor are so miserably poor and
the rich are so miserably rich
it amazes me that we allow each other to starve and to go
homeless
it amazes me that peaches grow in such an abundance
it amazes me that the moon hasn't broken apart and
attacked the earth
it amazes me that the birds still tolerate our presence
and continue to sing
it amazes me that fish haven't grown wings and attempted
leaving for greener pastures
it amazes me that cancer and heart disease haven't killed
everyone off yet
it amazes me that drugs haven't successfully obliterated
the masses
it amazes me that one person can throw a ball and another
will catch it
it amazes me that all politicians haven't been murdered
in their sleep
it amazes me that the many religions of the world haven't
destroyed one another
it amazes me that men and women still find pleasure in
making love
it amazes me that children still come into existence
it amazes me that every morning i put water on the stove
for tea
it amazes me the way the seasons come and go
it amazes me that the heavens don't explode

it amazes me that the dog tied to the porch is barking
its fool head off
it amazes me that the flashing lightning is as white as
new sneakers

— Ronald Baatz

Mt. Tremper NY

JUNIPER SMOKE STILL SCENTS THE CANYON

lichens were
powdered to
treat gums and
toothache for
textile dye

bull roarers were
twirled at the
ends of strings,

made a sound
that still echoes
thru Hopi plazas

MANOIR GENEST

boats, potato fields

long roofs like a
tongue with a curl
at the end of it

first world war,
several Germans
arrested for

spying here. We
lick fruit home
made bread spread

with maple. Near
the wharf, almost
flaunting, at the

edge, daring the
sea to get them,
maybe take them

twice, graves of
the maritime cemetery
black crosses against

pewter waves

— Lyn Lifshin

Vienna VA